

DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES

Regulation 4VAC15-50. Game: Bear.

**4VAC15-50-20. Open season; first Monday in December and for 11 consecutive hunting days following in certain counties or portions of counties and on the Clinch Mountain and Hidden Valley Wildlife Management Areas and on Department of Forestry lands in Washington and Russell counties.**

It shall be lawful to hunt bear from the first Monday in December and for 11 consecutive hunting days following, both dates inclusive, on the Clinch Mountain and Hidden Valley Wildlife Management Areas, on Department of Forestry lands in Washington and Russell counties, and in the counties of Buchanan, Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Carroll, Dickenson, Floyd, Franklin, Grayson, Henry, Lee, Montgomery (south of Interstate 81), Patrick, Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Pulaski (south of Interstate 81), Roanoke (south of Interstate 81), Russell, Scott, Smyth (south of Interstate 81), Tazewell (that part north of Route 19 that is west of Route 16), Washington (south of Interstate 81 and that part north of Interstate 81 that is west of Route 19), Wise, and Wythe (south of Interstate 81)

**4VAC15-50-25. Open season; cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk and Virginia Beach.**

It shall be lawful to hunt bear from ~~the first Monday in November~~ October 1 through the first Saturday in January, both dates inclusive, in the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk and Virginia Beach.

**4VAC15-50-81. Validating tags and checking bear by licensee or permittee.**

A. Any person killing a bear shall, before removing the carcass from the place of kill, validate an appropriate tag on their special license for hunting bear, deer, and turkey or special permit by completely removing the designated notch area from the tag. Place of kill shall be defined as the location where the animal is first reduced to possession. It shall be unlawful for any person to validate (notch) a bear tag from any special license for hunting bear, deer, and turkey or special permit prior to the killing of a bear. A bear tag that is mistakenly validated (notched) prior to the killing of a bear must be immediately voided by the licensee or permittee by writing, in ink, the word "VOID" on the line provided on the license tag.

B. Upon killing a bear and validating (notching) a license tag or special permit, as provided above, the licensee shall, upon vehicle transport of the carcass or at the conclusion of legal hunting hours, whichever occurs first, and without unnecessary delay, present the carcass and validated (notched) license tag or special permit to an authorized bear checking station or to an appropriate representative of the department in the county or adjoining county in which the bear was killed. Upon presentation of the carcass and validated (notched) license tag or special permit to the bear checking station, the licensee shall surrender or allow to be removed one premolar tooth from the carcass ~~and have a seal, furnished by the department, permanently attached by the check station operator.~~ At such time, the person checking the carcass will be given a game check card. The successful hunter shall then immediately record the game check card number, in ink, on the line provided adjacent to the license tag that was validated (notched) in the field. The game check card must be kept in possession with the carcass until the carcass is processed. If the carcass is left unattended, the game check card must be securely attached to the carcass.

C. It shall be unlawful for any person to destroy the identity (sex) of any bear killed unless and until the license tag or special permit is validated (notched) and checked as required by this section. Successful bear hunters are allowed to dismember the carcass to pack it out from the place of kill, after an appropriate license tag has been validated (notched) as required above, as long as the sex of the animal remains identifiable and all the parts of the carcass are present when the bear is checked at an authorized bear checking station. Any bear found in the possession of any person without a validated (notched) license tag or documentation that the bear has been checked at an authorized bear checking station as required by this section shall be forfeited to the Commonwealth to be disposed of as provided by law.

**4VAC15-50-91. Checking bear by persons exempt from license requirements or holding a license authorization number.**

A. Upon killing a bear, any person exempt from license requirements as prescribed in §29.1-301 of the Code of Virginia, or issued a complimentary license as prescribed in §29.1-339, or the holder of a permanent license issued pursuant to §29.1-301 E, or the holder of a Virginia license authorization number issued by a telephone or electronic media agent pursuant to §29.1-327 B of the Code of Virginia shall, upon vehicle transport of the carcass or at the conclusion of legal hunting hours, whichever occurs first, and without unnecessary delay, present the carcass to an authorized bear checking station or to any appropriate representative of the department in the county or adjoining county in which the bear was killed. Upon presentation of the carcass to the bear checking station, the person checking the carcass shall surrender or allow to be removed one premolar tooth from the carcass ~~and have a seal, furnished by the department, permanently attached by the check station operator.~~ At such time, the person checking or reporting the carcass shall be given a game check card furnished by

the department. The game check card must be kept in possession with the carcass until the carcass is processed. If the carcass is left unattended, the game check card must be securely attached to the carcass.

B. It shall be unlawful for any person to destroy the identity of the sex of any bear killed until the bear is checked as required by this section. Successful bear hunters are allowed to dismember the carcass to pack it out from the place of kill as long as they do not destroy the identity of the sex and all the parts of the carcass are present when the bear is checked at a big game check station.